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C.I.A.'s Opening Of Mail Is Costly

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A New York jury has found that the Central Intelligence Agency invaded the privacy of three citizens when it opened their mail to and from the Soviet Union, and that for that invasion the Government should pay them damages. The jurors were unanimous in deciding that the agency had acted improperly but divided on the proper compensation for the victims. Some recommended awards of \$10,000 for "mental anguish," one voted for \$5,000 "because not too much damage had been done," and another proposed \$2,500 because "a written Government apology is worth more than the money." A judge will decide the amount.

Spying in Connecticut

A group of 52 lawyers, doctors, journalists, students and former Black Panthers, in New Haven, Conn., have accused the New Haven police, the state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of illegal wiretapping and break-ins. The bureau also faces similar charges in a number of other cities. The reasons for the alleged surveillance, said to have gone on for more than 20 years, are not clear. Some feel that the police might have acted because they believed the city was an important base for the Black Panthers and because, as the home of Yale University, it attracted a number of persons sympathetic to radical causes. Attorneys in the Federal court suit, which charges "illegal electronic surveillance, wiretapping, bugging, infiltration, harassment, vandalism and terrorism," say that persons who did nothing "illegal or suspicious" were in the police watch. "Anybody was likely to be the victim of illegal surveillance," one attorney said.

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